

Amdt / BAW
5-17-03

Application/Control Number: 09/735,177

Art Unit: 1731

Page 2

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Steven Kelber on Thursday, May 15th, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

59 (Amended). A method for modifying a tobacco curing barn provided with a direct fire heating unit for the purpose of providing conditions suitable for curing tobacco such that resulting cured tobacco obtained from said barn possesses a tobacco-specific nitrosamine content lower than that obtained prior to such modification, the method comprising:

removing the direct fire heating unit from the tobacco barn,

providing the tobacco barn with a heating unit that does not generate exhaust gases comprising nitric oxides in a fashion that would cause contact between said nitric oxides and said tobacco within said barn, and further modifying said barn to ensure that the nitric oxide level within the barn during tobacco curing is suppressed to prevent formation of tobacco-specific nitrosamines [permit correlation of the tobacco-specific nitrosamine content of said cured tobacco with the actual level of nitric oxides to which

22

5